

REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE FROM SIDEWALKS IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

JANUARY 28, 1904.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BABCOCK, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 10421.]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10421) to provide for the removal of snow and ice from the sidewalks of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, report the same back to the House with the recommendation that it do pass when amended as follows:

Page 2, strike out in lines 9 and 10 the words "not more than" and insert after the word "dollars," in line 10, the words "and costs."

Page 2, line 12, strike out the words "not exceeding" and insert in lieu thereof the word "of," and insert after the word "dollars" in said line, the words "and costs."

This bill was prepared by and introduced at the request of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. Their letter on the subject is as follows:

OFFICE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, January 18, 1904.

DEAR SIR: The Commissioners of the District of Columbia have the honor to earnestly recommend the reintroduction and early enactment of the inclosed draft of a bill to provide for the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

A similar bill was passed by the Senate on March 10, 1902, but failed to receive corresponding action in the House.

The object of the bill is to secure the prompt removal of snow and ice from sidewalks, which the present law fails to accomplish, because of the inadequacy of the penalty and the lack of appropriation to remove the material by the District authorities in the first instance.

The present law provides for an assessment for the expense incurred in such removal, but no appropriation is available for the work, as the accounting officers of the Treasury have held that the annual appropriation for cleaning snow and ice from the streets can not be used for the removal of snow and ice from the sidewalks.

The impracticability of enforcing the present law is materially due to the inadequacy of the fine, which is \$1, and which many persons would rather pay than

incur the expense and trouble of cleaning their sidewalks. The bill herewith transmitted provides a maximum fine of \$5 and a cumulative penalty of \$5 for each twenty-four hours of failure to comply with the law, with an alternative workhouse sentence.

Very respectfully,

HENRY B. F. MACFARLAND,
President Board of Commissioners, District of Columbia.

Hon. J. W. BABCOCK,
Chairman Committee on District of Columbia, House of Representatives.

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